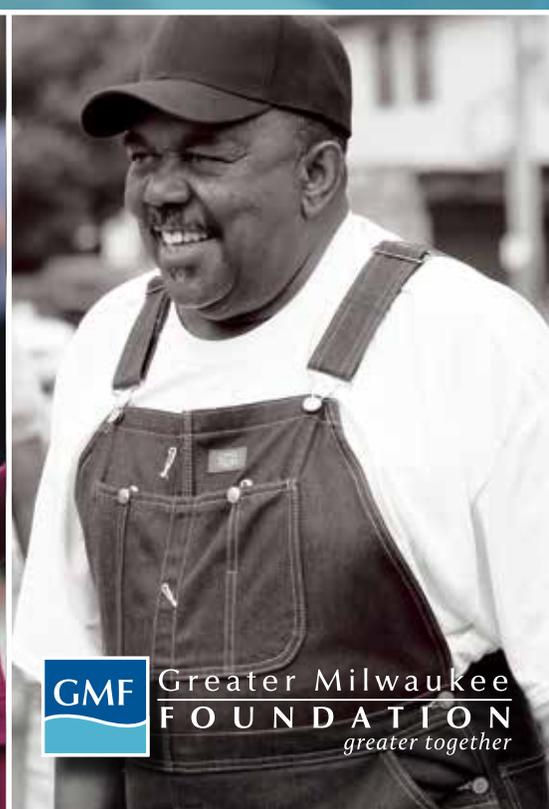




HOST TOOLKIT

on the table

Your voice matters.





YOUR VOICE MATTERS

When we come together as a community to listen to and learn from each other, we have the power to impact both individual lives and whole communities. That's what *On the Table* is all about.

Greater Milwaukee has what it takes to be a globally competitive, 21st century region! Like any community, we have our share of opportunities and challenges. Our region's growing diversity is a significant strength, and it will be a competitive advantage for our shared future. In large part, our region offers a remarkable quality of life, however, for far too many people, opportunity for economic, social and civic participation is out of reach.

In areas such as income, incarceration and entrepreneurship, we face significant disparities based on race and ethnicity. Moreover, these disparities are often more pronounced here than in similar regions. Achieving our shared goal of a thriving region will require building upon the strength of our diversity while ensuring that race and ethnicity are never barriers to all people reaching their full potential.



Greater Milwaukee
FOUNDATION
greater together

ABOUT *ON THE TABLE*

Thanks for hosting a mealtime conversation as part of *On the Table Greater Milwaukee*. On a single day, Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2017, you'll be part of an exciting, regionwide initiative to explore the ways in which we have the power to collaborate and contribute to a more vibrant and connected region.

Over more than a century of work in the community, the Greater Milwaukee Foundation has seen that Milwaukee-area residents share a desire to come together, collaborate more, become more civically involved and strengthen our community. While we know that there's no "quick fix" to the issues facing our region, progress will result from residents and organizations working to make contributions that add up to a greater solution that helps unite the place we call home. *On the Table* is the forum for conversations to take place. What happens next is up to you.





LET'S GET STARTED

Planning Your Event

The Day

Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2017. All *On the Table* events will take place on this day during mealtime conversations – breakfast, lunch, dinner and in-between.

The Guests

The invite list is up to you. If you're unsure, start with people you know – friends, family, colleagues and neighbors. We encourage you to expand your circle. Consider reaching out to a larger community by co-hosting your event with a local congregation or nonprofit. Ask your guests to bring a friend, or invite people from your network that don't already know each other. Consider how diverse perspectives could invigorate dialogue at your table.

The Numbers

Eight to 12 guests per table is ideal. *On the Table* is about giving everyone a chance to

speak and be heard. If you want to host a larger gathering, consider breaking into smaller groups and allowing time for each to discuss and report out to the larger group.

Registration

Visit onthetableMKE.org to register your event. Via the website, you will also have access to a variety of host resources and information.

Spread the Word

What will you do to create a more connected community? How will you use your *On the Table* conversation to bring your colleagues, friends, family and neighbors together to lead change in your organization, neighborhood or throughout the region? Grow the conversation by encouraging others to participate in *On the Table*. Share your enthusiasm to help ensure this opportunity is open and inclusive to all.

THE TABLE IS SET, NOW WHAT?

Conversational Guidelines

First, what can we do together to ensure a thriving community with a high quality of life for all?

Our fundamental discussion question is intentionally left open-ended to encourage *On the Table* participants to think creatively and reflect on possibilities, rather than fixate on well-known challenges.

Second, consider the conversation as a journey. Every guest's ideas and stories are important, and *On the Table* conversations should provide an opportunity for all participants to reflect on what we value most, consider choices and tradeoffs, and invite all ideas.

Third, focus on generating solutions. The Foundation wants to showcase action emerging from *On the Table* conversations to inspire collaboration and action from others, and drive progress across the region.

BE SOCIAL

- Smile. Take photos or record video clips to chronicle the experience.
- Share your photos, videos and stories before, throughout and after Oct. 17 using the hashtag #onthetableMKE on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.
- Follow the Foundation's social media accounts for news and updates.

Dos and Don'ts

DO

- Encourage everyone to participate.
- Invite guests to follow up and expand on ideas.
- Call *On the Table* at 414.376.8253 if you have any questions.

DON'T

- Micromanage the conversation; let it flow freely.
- Be judgmental or dismissive of any person's comments or ideas.
- Promote arguments or unproductive debate.
- Be afraid to ask if you have questions on Oct. 17 - we have a team ready to help.

Sample Conversation Prompts

To help get your conversations started, we've compiled a list of sample conversation prompts. Here are a few examples to consider:

1. Share something you love, or are most proud of, about where you live.
2. What can we do, as individuals, and together with organizations we are part of, to make our region more vibrant?
3. Each of us is a philanthropist - through our time, talent, and treasure. What can each of us do as community philanthropists to help build stronger, more connected communities?
4. How can we ensure that greater Milwaukee is a globally-competitive, 21st century region? What are the strengths upon which we build?
5. If you could have all the resources and all the people needed to accomplish something to improve your community or our region, what would you undertake?
6. If your table includes young people, consider asking them about the issues they observe in their school, neighborhood and peer groups. How do they see themselves contributing to solutions that build a better future for their generation?
7. Let's look at next steps. Residents from all walks of life across our region will be gathering today over mealtime conversations just like ours. How can we use these conversations to bring colleagues, friends, and neighbors together to lead change across greater Milwaukee? What should we do next?

WRAPPING UP

After Your Event

Considering the times in which we live, this act of coming together has never been more important. *On the Table Greater Milwaukee* creates the space for civil conversations, allowing us to hear one another and explore how we can build and sustain a stronger, more inclusive community. We hope the new connections made on Oct. 17 lead to better understanding and lasting relationships.

Your conversation is just the beginning:

- Before your guests depart, encourage them to help us record thoughts, ideas and actions generated during your conversation by completing the short email survey that each participant will receive following the event. Your input will help the Foundation consider how best to serve our region, and results will be shared with leaders throughout greater Milwaukee to advance a common understanding of our community's challenges and opportunities.
- Please ask everyone at your table to fill out a postcard provided with your toolkit. Collect completed cards and send them to the Foundation. Guests may also choose to post pictures of their postcards on social media.
- Exchange contact information and identify opportunities to stay connected around shared interests.
- Agree upon next steps for action or follow up.
- Set a date for the entire group or members of the group to reconvene.
- Share your success stories, challenges and ideas with us:
 - Complete the Host Feedback Form included with this guide
 - Email us: onthetableMKE@greatermilwaukeefoundation.org
 - Post on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter, using hashtag #onthetableMKE
 - Leave a message with us: 414.376.8253
 - Send us a note:
ATTN *On the Table* MKE
101 W. Pleasant St., Suite 210
Milwaukee, WI 53212
- The Greater Milwaukee Foundation organized *On the Table* as a forum for you to share your experiences and express your hopes and plans. Thank you for bringing your ideas to the table. Your voice will always matter.

Be sure to follow us on:

TWITTER: @GrMKEFdn

FACEBOOK: facebook.com/GreaterMilwaukeeFoundation

INSTAGRAM: @grmkefdndn

YOUTUBE: youtube.com/GrMkeFdn

For more information:

VISIT onthetableMKE.org

EMAIL us at onthetableMKE@greatermilwaukeefoundation.org

CALL 414.376.8253

About The Greater Milwaukee Foundation

The Greater Milwaukee Foundation is the region's largest community foundation and was among the first established in the world. For more than a century, the Foundation has inspired philanthropy by connecting generous people to community needs that align with their interests.

The Foundation was founded on the premise that generosity can unlock an individual's potential and strengthen the community as a whole for everyone who lives here. Our vision for a dynamic region is rooted in the idea that our community is greater when all people have the opportunity for economic, social and civic participation.

We work side by side with those who are committed to ensuring greater Milwaukee is a vibrant, economically thriving region that comprises welcoming and inclusive communities providing opportunity, prosperity and a high quality of life for all.

The Foundation serves Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington and Waukesha counties, and our donors support causes locally and around the world. Since being established in 1915, the Foundation has awarded more than \$621 million in grants - including a historic \$60 million in 2016 - supporting a wide variety of nonprofits and initiatives that are forging a brighter future for the people of greater Milwaukee.

We recognize that our region has serious challenges. Entrenched disparities threaten to further segregate our communities physically, socially and economically. As a community foundation, we can play an important role in bringing people together to bridge those divides. Our community's needs compel us to convene people, generate ideas and catalyze investment to accelerate progress toward an equitable region. There are no easy answers, but we know for certain that as a community, we are GREATER TOGETHER. To learn more, visit greatermilwaukeefoundation.org





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greater together

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